

MISSOURI STATE COMMITTEE OF INTERPRETERS



NOVEMBER 2020

This is an official publication of the
Division of Professional Registration.

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MISSOURI DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Carrie McCray
CHAIRPERSON

It has been a year, and we are not done yet! I know I would have been fine with “less,” but the world is giving us “more!” Professionally, we are in a stressful chapter of the interpreting environment, and I, for one, would love to turn the page. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to do so. As interpreters, we are doing our jobs; we are facilitating communication, in situations that are sometimes uncomfortable. The issues that the country is confronting are present, and visible, in the interpreting community as well.

While some face to face interpreting is resuming, many of us have had to embrace remote interpreting to accommodate work availability. We also are confronting issues of racism within our communities and working towards securing a more inclusive future.

The pandemic eliminated almost all interpreting work overnight. Once schools, courts, and nonessential healthcare and social services went into lockdown, work for interpreters disappeared. I consider interpreters essential employees, but overnight loca-

tions where we provide an essential service were deemed non-essential. With the absence of work, I saw many interpreters reach out to find avenues of professional development as a way to take advantage of the forced slow down. Interpreters found themselves doing something they thought they would never have to do- filing for unemployment.. After months of uncertainty, the reopening of many schools, courts, and health services is slowly starting to provide more interpreting opportunities, and along with those opportunities, the reopening is bringing change.

One change the pandemic created is a new focus on the press conference interpreter. Although I believe that society is past the era of “the distracting interpreter” and “those facial expressions,” the focus is now on our face coverings. The MASK has been a dominant theme for the Deaf and HOH population and interpreters. There has been much consternation over cloth masks shielding the pathway of our primary purpose- the sending and receiving of messages. Its counterpart, the clear mask, has opened discussion on the grammatical features of ASL and how important facial expressions are for Deaf and HOH hearing consumers and interpreters. So, while not its original intent, the mask controversy unknowingly has provided an abundance of opportunities for lessons on Deaf culture and the linguistic needs of ASL.

Other supremely important opportunities which came from the summer was the confrontation of issues related to racism within our communities. As interpreters, we work with individuals from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, and it is imperative that we are aware of our biases and challenge our cultural limitations. As a community, I believe interpreters overall are open and respectful. But, there is always room for reflection and improvement: Reach out and support each other. Read, educate yourself, and understand that we all have more to learn. Be stronger listeners and provide more appropriate and culturally competent support to those within our community.

At this time, most communities are relaxing the most restrictive guidelines, but as we know, cases are spiking again, so we might find ourselves facing another lockdown. For many, the forced isolation of quar-

CONTINUED

antine allowed for reflection and personal growth. In the middle of this crisis, we have been given an opportunity, a sliver of time to refocus our priorities. Our profession requires us to be flexible; jobs rarely are as described, and no one uses the language reported on the job description. However, our current situation is just one more opportunity to practice our natural flexibility and embrace the changes and challenges before us. Earn CEU's, video chat with some Deaf friends, volunteer to be a mentor to an upcoming interpreting student, educate yourself. Make the absolute most of the time we have now because when all things resume, and work is plentiful, this will only be a memory, and the hectic pace of life will hit us again.

I wish you all the best of health, and the most of your educational experiences!

Carrie

DISCIPLINARY ACTION CURRENT DISCIPLINARY ORDERS

Sherry Padgett-Interpreter, 2009006270: 5 year probation April 15, 2019- April 15, 2024

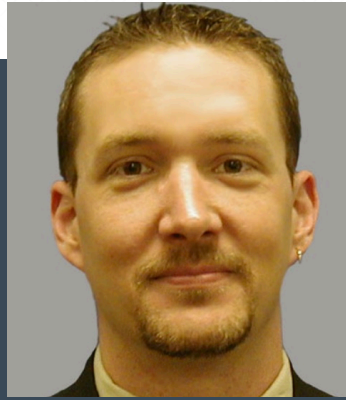
Mary Zustiak-Interpreter, 1999137090: 3 year probation August 23, 2018-August 23, 2021

DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to ensure that the above enforcement information is correct. However, this information should not be relied upon without verification from the Committee office. Discipline orders are public information and copies may be obtained via the website at pr.mo.gov/interpreters, under Sub Navigation "Disciplined Licensees". A licensee is entitled to engage in the practice of interpreting during his/her probationary period providing that the licensee adheres to all of the terms and conditions of the Order. However, a licensee whose license has been suspended, is not entitled to engage in the practice of interpreting during the suspension.

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PhD, Chairperson
Fulton, Missouri



John Adams
Secretary
St. Louis, Missouri



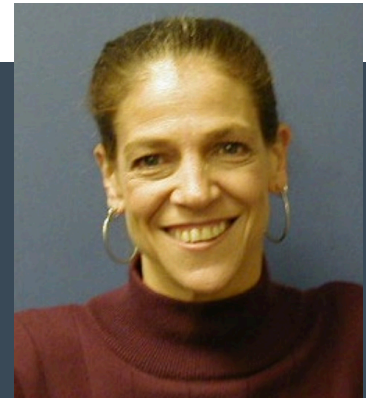
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Deaf Public Member
Ballwin, MO



Pam Groose
Executive Director

VACANT
Interpreter Position



WEBSITE WONDERS

The State Committee of Interpreters is here to help you in any way we can. Feel free to give us a call whenever you have questions. Our website, <https://pr.mo.gov/interpreters.asp>, is also here to help you and provides a multitude of information. Check it out.

Did you know you can request a paper renewal form on our website, or your PIN to renew online if you can't find yours? Simply click the link on our home page to take you to the request form.

Are you interested in attending a future committee meeting or want to know what's been discussed at a past meeting? The Meeting Information tab in the Committee Information Section of our home page will tell you everything you need to know. Future meeting dates are listed, as well as the agenda for the open meetings. Once the minutes are approved at the next meeting, the minutes of the open meetings are also posted in order to keep you informed.

Have you misplaced your copy of the Rules and Statutes? For those of you who have been in the profession for several years, you might know exactly where your copy is, but may not be sure your copy is still current. You can always access the Rules and Statutes by clicking the link on our home page. This is a good way to assure you are using the latest version.

Has your name, address, phone number, or e-mail address changed? This is especially important when renewals are coming up. We can only get your renewal reminder to you if we have your correct contact information. In order to update your information we must have a written copy of your update request; you may not just give us your information over the phone. To notify us of any name change or to update your home or business address, e-mail, or phone number, just click on the Change of Address link in the Licensee section of the home page, complete the form, and submit.

MENTORSHIP

The committee continues to provide mentorship opportunities for certified interpreters. Due to changes within the state certification system, the mentorship rule has been rewritten to provide needed training opportunities for certified interpreters. The new mentorship rules are now aligned to current certification standards and allow for mentorship by Basic and Advanced Certified Interpreters.

The bar has been raised on minimum certification within the state and training should follow. A certified interpreter who wants to increase their knowledge base in a specialty area of interpreting and to test for higher certification could qualify for mentorship. Interpreters wishing to apply for mentorship must complete the following:

- Apply to the State Committee of Interpreters by filling out the required application and paying the \$10.00 application fee;
- Describe mentee qualifications (educational history, professional experience, and certification);
- Provide a professional development plan including goals, instructional activities, and learning timeline (not to exceed 6 months);
- Detail the mentor interpreter's qualifications, including but not limited to certification, years of experience at the certification level, and training (Basic/Advanced for 5 years or a Master certification for 3 years, or a national certification attesting similar training).

The application will be reviewed by members of the State Committee of Interpreters. The mentorship cannot begin until notification of approval from the committee is received. Once approved, the interpreters will be notified and the mentorship will be recorded with the committee.

It is the intent of the committee that mentor and mentee interpreters meet and work on goals and needed skills prior to working in live interpreting assignments. Permission is needed from all parties involved (mentor, mentee, and consumers) before any mentee can attend or participate in an interpreting assignment. Once the mentee and mentor interpreter feel that the mentee is prepared to interpret in the desired setting and permission has been garnered, the mentee is authorized to work at one skill level above their certification under the direct supervision of the mentor interpreter.

The mentor interpreter is ultimately responsible for the quality of the information conveyed in any interpreting assignment during the mentorship relationship. The mentor must directly supervise the interpreting and take over in the event that information is not being conveyed sufficiently, or if anyone in the interpreting assignment requests a switch of interpreter.

The committee is committed to providing a safe opportunity for growth within the certified interpreter population. There are not many opportunities for supervised training once interpreters graduate from educational programs. This program allows the certified interpreter to go back in the "classroom" but with additional life skills and experience as an interpreter.

If you have any questions on the mentorship program, please don't hesitate to reach out to the committee.

Interested in applying to the mentorship program? Here is the link to the application.

<https://pr.mo.gov/boards/interpreters/375-0362.pdf>

CONGRATULATIONS!

The State Committee of Interpreters offers our heartfelt thanks to all who have served professionally to help the citizens of Missouri. We'd like to recognize those of you who have reached a milestone as a licensed Interpreter in our state.

20+ YEARS AS A LICENSED INTERPRETER IN MISSOURI

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STATISTICS FY 14-20

INT STATISTICS	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
LICENSED	71	54	36	86	102	86	119
COMPLAINTS OPENED	15	7	6	2	9	4	4
COMPLAINTS CLOSED	15	7	6	2	9	4	3
DISCIPLINES	1	4	2	1	0	4	0
DID NOT RENEW	0	1	0	0	0	38	86

COVID-19

Not that long ago, most of us had never heard of COVID-19. Today, however, COVID-19 is a household word, and we must be mindful of the possibility of sharing a sometimes life-threatening disease with friends and family, and with clients and co-workers. The decisions faced today are unprecedented and unsettling. As you do your best to make decisions that are best for your families and your communities, know that we here at the State Committee of Interpreters office are doing the same thing. Whether we are working in the office or working remotely from home, we are doing our best to continue to serve you and the citizens of Missouri. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is something we can do to make this challenging time a little less chaotic.

Reminder

All Interpreter licenses must be renewed by January 31, 2021. Make sure we have all your correct contact information so that we can send you renewal information. If you have a change in name, mailing address, or e-mail address, please notify us by sending us an e-mail to interpreters@pr.mo.gov or submitting your update through our website.